

**Examination**

🕒 20 min

次の英文を読んで、以下の設問に答えなさい。

A proverb is a traditional saying which offers advice or presents a moral in a short and concise manner.

Proverbs fall readily into three main categories. Those of the first type take the form of abstract statements expressing general truths, such as *Absence makes the heart grow fonder* and *Time is money*. Proverbs of the second type, which include many of the more colourful examples, use specific observations from everyday experience to make a point which is general; for instance, *You can take a horse to the water, but you can't make him drink* and *Don't put all your eggs in one basket*. The third type of proverb comprises sayings from particular areas of traditional wisdom and folklore. In this category are found, ( a ), the health proverbs *After dinner rest a while, after supper walk a mile* and *Feed a cold and starve a fever*. These are frequently classical maxims rendered into the vernacular. ( b ), there are traditional country proverbs which relate to farming, the seasons, and the weather, such as *April showers bring forth May flowers* and *When the wind is in the east, it's neither good for man nor beast*.

It is sometimes said that the proverb is going out of fashion, or that it has become worn out. (A) Such views overlook the fact that while the role of the proverb in English literature has changed, its popularity has remained constant. In medieval times, and even as late as the seventeenth century, proverbs often had the status of universal truths and were used to confirm or refute an argument.

25 Lengthy lists of proverbs were compiled to assist the scholar in  
 debate; and many sayings from Latin, Greek, and the continental  
 languages were drafted into English for this purpose. By the  
 eighteenth century, ( c ), the popularity of the proverb had  
 declined in the work of educated writers, who began to ridicule it  
 30 as a vehicle for dull, conventional wisdom.

It is easy to see how proverbs came into disrepute. Seemingly  
 contradictory proverbs can be paired — (7) Too many cooks spoil the  
broth with *Many hands make light work*: ( B ) with its  
 opposite *Out of sight, out of mind*. Proverbs could thus become an  
 35 easy object for satire in learned circles, and are still sometimes  
 frowned upon by the polished stylist. (c) The proverb has  
nonetheless retained its popularity as a homely commentary on  
life and as a reminder that the wisdom of our ancestors may still  
be useful to us today. This shift is reflected in the quotations which  
 40 accompany the entries in the dictionary: recent quotations are  
 often taken from the works of minor writers, or from newspapers  
 and magazines, while earlier quotations are more frequently from  
 the works of major writers. (D) It is a reflection of the proverb's  
vitality that new ones are continually being created as older ones  
 45 fall into disuse. Surprisingly, neither *A change is as good as a rest*  
 nor *A trouble shared is a trouble halved* are recorded before the  
 twentieth century; the popular saying *A watched pot never boils*  
 first occurs as late as 1848. The computer world has recently given  
 us a potential classic, *Garbage in, garbage out*, and economics has  
 50 supplied us with *There's no such thing as a free lunch*. Proverbs

continue — as the early collectors never tired of stating — to provide the sauce to relish the meat of ordinary speech.

設問(1) 本文中の空所(a)～(c)を埋めるのに最も適切なものを(イ)～(ニ)から選び、それぞれ記号で答えなさい。

- (a) (イ) for example (ロ) nonetheless  
 (ハ) surely (ニ) therefore
- (b) (イ) As a result (ロ) But (ハ) For  
 (ニ) In addition
- (c) (イ) although (ロ) however (ハ) in fact (ニ) thus

設問(2) 本文中の下線部(ア)のことわざの意味に最も近いものを次の日本語のことわざから選び、記号を解答欄に書きなさい。

- (イ) 命長ければ恥多し (ロ) 教うるにも術多し  
 55 (ハ) 好事魔多し (ニ) 船頭多くして船山に上る

設問(3) 本文中の下線部(A)の意味内容を 30 字以内の日本語で説明しなさい。ただし、句読点は 1 字に数える。

設問(4) 本文中の空所(B)を埋めるのに最も適切なことわざを本文中から英語のまま抜き出しなさい。

設問(5) 本文中の下線部(C)の意味を日本語で表しなさい。

設問(6) 本文中の下線部(D)の意味を日本語で表しなさい。